

Betsy Shade, M.D.
1762 Belle Court
Millersville, MD 21108

March 12, 2011

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE

MAR 22 2011

BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office
Attn: Grand Canyon Withdrawal Project
345 E. Riverside Dr.
Saint George, UT 84790-6714

Dear BLM:

These comments are submitted in support of the withdrawal of 1 million acres under the mining laws, as described in your new environmental impact statement. The Grand Canyon belongs to all of us, and it should never be impaired by mining. My six children (ages now 11 to 15) love wild country, and we all hope the Grand Canyon will still be wild when they grow up and explore our beautiful land for themselves. I sent comments during your public comment period in 2009.

I have a map showing the proposed withdrawal, and I see that the three parcels involved are the less-protected pieces of the whole Grand Canyon region. My sister and her husband visited the North and East Parcels on a vacation trip several years ago. The South Parcel is visited by millions of people every year on their way to the South Rim.

I support Alternative B, which calls for withdrawal of the full 1 million acres proposed by Secretary Ken Salazar. Smaller areas would be protected under Alternatives C and D, exposing them to a potential of 14 to 22 new mines and 207 to 431 uranium exploration projects, as estimated in the EIS. Alternative A withdraws no lands, potentially leading to 26 new mines and 728 exploration projects.

When President Theodore Roosevelt visited the canyon in 1903 he said: "Leave it as it is. You can not improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." Uranium mining and exploration would certainly mar it. This threat should be stopped once and for all. The Grand Canyon deserves protection with its integral tributaries, as Secretary Salazar has proposed.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely yours,

Betsy Shade MD



WASHINGTON COUNTY

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March 21, 2011

Scott Florence
BLM District Manager, Arizona Strip District
345 E. Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790

Dear Scott,

The Counties of Mohave, San Juan, Washington, Kane and Garfield and the town of Fredonia formally request a sixty (60) day extension for comment on the DEIS for the Arizona Strip Withdrawal.

The DEIS relates to a decision to withdraw from multiple use areas specifically designated for multiple use by the Congress which has the Constitutional duty to manage the federal lands.

The DEIS relates to a very controversial action, a factor that is considered essential to setting time limits by Council on Environmental Quality in 40 CRF 1501.8.

President Obama directed agencies to "afford the public a meaningful opportunity to comment through the internet on any proposed regulation, with a comment period that should generally be at least sixty (60) days." This order was issued on January 18, 2011, yet the DEIS which was released after that date gave only 45 days for comments. BLM disobeyed the Executive Order.

This complex DEIS has been in preparation for nearly 2 years – the public, our constituents, have not been given "meaningful opportunity to comment" with a forty-five (45) day period.

On behalf of our constituents we request a sixty day (60) extension for submission of comments, said sixty days to begin on April 4, 2011.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Alan D. Gardner in blue ink.
Alan D. Gardner
Commissioner
Washington County

Handwritten signature of Buster D. Johnson in black ink.
Buster D. Johnson
Supervisor District 3
Mohave County